

Training and Education Against Malnutrition (TEAM) A Multi-Disciplinary Training for Clinical Nutrition Practitioners

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Philippine Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

Description of the initiative

For the past 20 years, prevalence of hospital malnutrition in the Philippines remains high at 48-55 % since the initial study in 1995 mainly due to lack of awareness, knowledge and skills in clinical nutrition among health care professionals especially among physicians. To address this problem, the Philippine Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (PhilSPEN) has started Basic Nutrition Support (BNS) and Advanced Nutrition Therapy (ANT) courses for doctors, dietitians, nurses, and pharmacists since 2011. Within 6 years, a total of 65 courses were conducted, with participation of 2,206 physicians, dietitians, nurses and pharmacists from different parts of the country. Despite these efforts, only 18 out of 83 tertiary care hospitals in the country which participated in nutrition education have actually practiced complete clinical nutrition care process.

The overall aim of **TEAM: Multi-Disciplinary Training for Clinical Nutrition Practitioners** is to increase the practice of evidence-based clinical nutrition in the hospitals through implementation of multi-disciplinary educational programs to improve quality in nutrition practice and management and collaboration among health care professionals. This is innovative as it targets multi-discipline practice and education of nutrition among physicians, dietitians, nurses and pharmacists.

Planned activities & deliverables

The following steps will be done: (1) Determination of needs and strategic process and opportunities for BNS and ANT mentoring in hospitals in different regions in the country (2) Determination of present barriers in the execution of clinical nutrition education (3) Conduct of refresher BNS and ANT courses in selected hospitals that have dedicated nutrition champions (4) Mid-term evaluation of the pilot hospitals in the last quarter of 2018 (5) Completion of pilot projects in 6 regional hospitals in midyear of 2019 (6) Conduct of a national workshop to present success and challenges of the project in the 3rd quarter of 2019 (7) Development and publication of BNS modules in a handbook. (8) Preparation of the applicability of large scale implementation of the project in all Department of Health (DOH) run tertiary government hospitals in the country .

Resources and Enablers

We will involve clinical nutrition specialists who will act as trainers, resource persons and mentors to the BNS and ANT graduates. The grant will be spent primarily to conduct BNS and ANT courses in pilot hospitals and will include expenses to improve current modules and to organize the courses (transportation, venue rentals, meals, honorarium of trainers and training materials).

Factors for its success will include cooperation among participating hospitals and its leaders, attitude of different professionals in sharing knowledge and learning more about nutrition therapy.

Results/outcomes & expected impact

The results of the needs and barriers assessment will be utilized in the improvement of the BNS and ANT modules. We are targeting that at least 1 hospital for each of the 3 main islands of the country may be able to establish a fully functioning nutrition team in 2 years' time through the T.E.A.M approach. Full implementation of the program will provide opportunities for continuing nutrition education and will have a strong potential to increase the number of physicians and other allied health professionals to practice evidence-based nutrition management in their total patient care with an ultimate goal of reducing hospital malnutrition and its negative consequences on patients. With more health care professionals practicing early and adequate nutrition care among hospitalized patients, we hope to achieve hospitalization cost savings with improvement in the quality of patient care. This outcome can possibly influence national nutrition policy to adopt and implement full nutrition care process in all hospitals in the Philippines. This initiative can also be transferable in other countries with limited staff practicing nutrition due to lack of skills and knowledge.